

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

Beast MASTER

Eddie
Redmayne

TALKS

FANTASTIC
BEASTS:
THE CRIMES OF
GRINDELWALD

Inside

EMMA
STONE

JASON
REITMAN

RAMI
MALEK

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Eddie Redmayne returns as the creature-loving Newt Scamander in the sequel *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, a fast-paced tale that's darker than the first film. Here, Redmayne tells us why he loves playing Newt, working with good friend Jude Law, who's playing Dumbledore, and introducing his kids to the Potterverse
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BY BOB STRAUSS





FINDING HIS MAGIC

If I told you that prior to being cast as *Fantastic Beasts*' lovable protagonist Newt Scamander Eddie Redmayne auditioned for a part in a *Harry Potter* movie, which role would you guess it was for?

One of the Weasleys, perhaps? Those freckles and his reddish-brown hair would make it pretty easy to turn the endearing British actor into one of Ron's protective older brothers. Or maybe it was noble Cedric Diggory, the Hufflepuff prefect and popular captain of his house's Quidditch team who made the ultimate sacrifice in *Goblet of Fire*'s most chilling scene.

Nope. Long before you'd seen him in anything, Redmayne auditioned for the part of Tom Riddle, a.k.a. young Voldemort, or evil incarnate, in *Harry Potter and Chamber of Secrets*. He didn't get it. Or as he told us when we interviewed him for 2016's *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, the first film of the *Harry Potter* sequel series, "I failed to meet the casting director I was so bad."

The gregarious ginger has also talked about auditioning for, but failing to get, a role in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. I'd ask you to guess the role again, but I fear I've tipped my hand. Yup. It was Kylo Ren. He went in and did his best heavy breathing à la Darth Vader, was asked if he had anything else, and said, "No." That was it.

Not all of the big auditions he's muffed have been for cruel characters. He didn't get Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit* either, despite taking his best shot. On BBC host Graham Norton's chat show Redmayne re-enacted his terrible audition, flailing around and reciting, "My name is Bilbo Baggins," in a high, silly voice.

We hear about actors who missed out on big roles all the time, but not usually from the actors themselves. It takes a certain amount of courage to go around revealing, and having fun with, your failures. Eddie Redmayne has it. Perhaps it has something to do with that Best Actor Oscar he won for his turn as Stephen Hawking in 2014's *The Theory of Everything*, and the second Oscar nomination he earned for playing trans woman Lili Elbe in *The Danish Girl* the following year.

Still, it's a good thing that when it came time to cast *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* Redmayne didn't have to audition at all. In an article for the U.K.'s *Telegraph* newspaper, franchise producer David Heyman wrote, "From the outset, Eddie Redmayne was our first and only choice. Not only does he look as if he lives in 1926, but he has all the elements required to be Newt: he's smart, funny, utterly British, and immensely sympathetic."

So not a match for Voldemort, then?

Turn to page 38 to read "Mr. Fantastic," our interview with Eddie Redmayne about returning to the 1920s for *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, and to find out which of his personal friends he got to work with this time around.

Elsewhere in this issue, **Rami Malek** tells us why he's still researching Freddie Mercury long after *Bohemian Rhapsody* has wrapped (page 22), Canadian director **Jason Reitman** explains why the story of Gary Hart is best seen from all angles in *The Front Runner* (page 28) and we chat with **Emma Stone** about her rather unusual costume drama, *The Favourite* (page 32).

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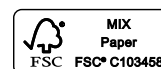
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ELLIS JACOB, DAN MCGRATH

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Disney THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

IN THEATRES NOVEMBER 2



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SNAPS



BLACK STAR

Jack Black shows off his vertical leap while receiving a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

PHOTO BY DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY



IS THE CALLER THERE?

Joaquin Phoenix films a scene for *The Joker* in Brooklyn.

PHOTO BY GETTY



TRIP TO SPAIN

Ryan Gosling and **Claire Foy** head to a photo call for *First Man* at Spain's San Sebastian Film Festival.

PHOTO BY CARLOS ALVAREZ/GETTY



GRAND SLAM FRIENDSHIP

Gerard Butler cheers on his friend, eventual tournament winner Novak Djokovic, during the US Open.

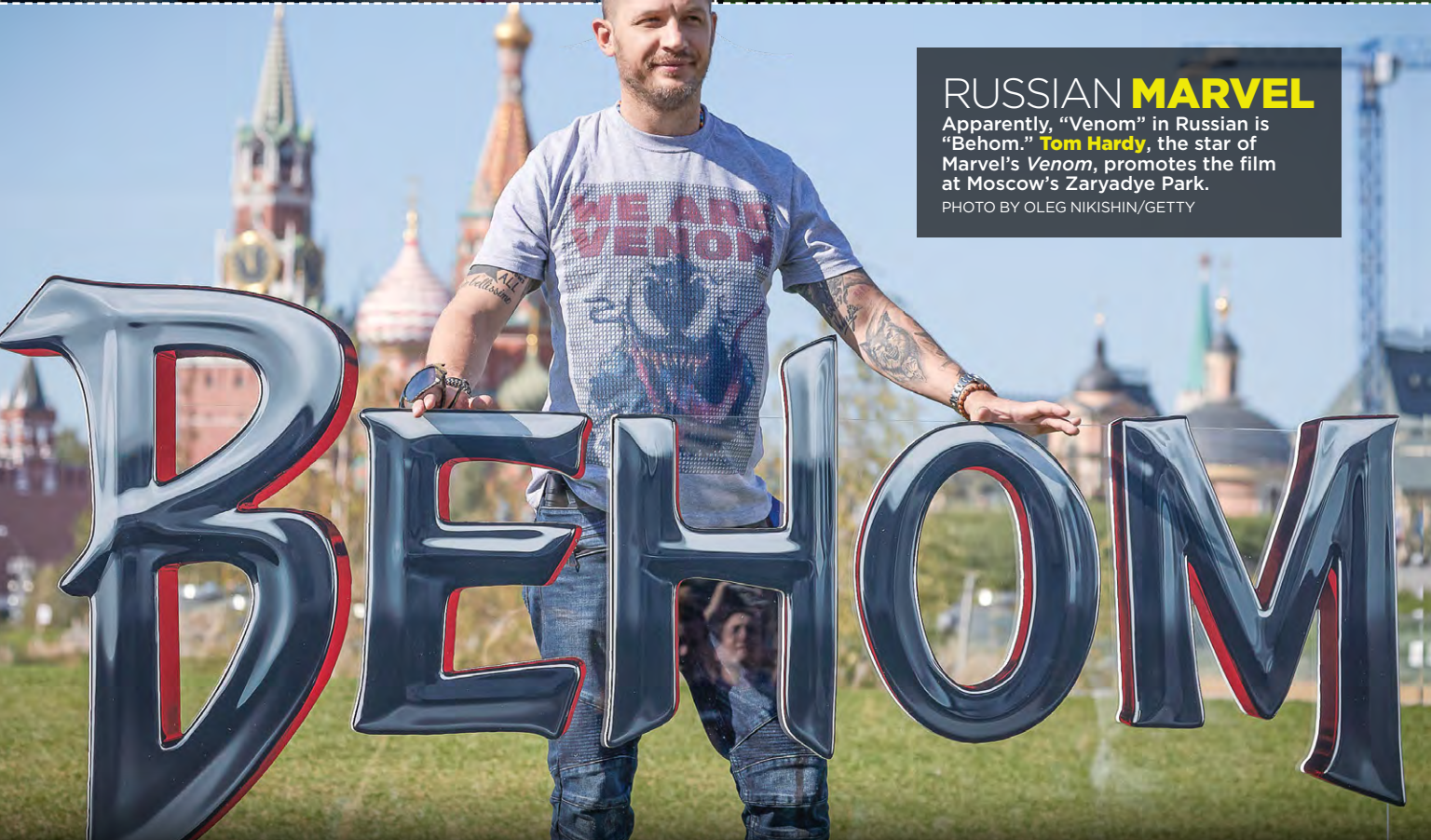
PHOTO BY JACKSON LEE/GETTY



HOUSE PARTY

Cate Blanchett attends the world premiere of *The House With a Clock in its Walls* in London, England.

PHOTO BY
SAMIR HUSSEIN/GETTY



RUSSIAN **MARVEL**

Apparently, "Venom" in Russian is "Behom." **Tom Hardy**, the star of Marvel's *Venom*, promotes the film at Moscow's Zaryadye Park.

PHOTO BY OLEG NIKISHIN/GETTY

IN BRIEF



Viggo Mortensen (left) with Mahershala Ali in *Green Book*
INSET: Nick Vallelonga

NICK VALLELONGA PHOTO BY VALERIE MACON/GETTY

Stars Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali are getting most of the attention for *Green Book*, the drama about race and friendship in the 1960s that won the People's Choice Award at this year's Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), making it a frontrunner for Oscar's top prize.

Mortensen plays Tony Lip, a plain-speaking New York bouncer who agrees to drive Dr. Don Shirley (Ali), an erudite Black concert pianist, across the inhospitable Deep South in 1962. They'll have to use *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, a guide to establishments that are safe for a Black man to visit, to chart their journey.

But it's Nick Vallelonga, who co-wrote the screenplay and plays the small role of Augie, who knows this story best. Tony Lip was his father. Born Frank Anthony Vallelonga, Tony eventually became an actor and played Carmine Lupertazzi on *The Sopranos*.

"As a kid, I heard this story growing up my whole life," Vallelonga told a crowd at a TIFF press conference. "I always knew I wanted to make this story at some point so I had my father tell me all the stories, I had Dr. Shirley tell me the stories, and it was just a matter of how and when could I make it."

Dr. Shirley wanted the story told exactly how it happened, but not until after he'd passed. Both Don Shirley and Tony Lip died in 2013.

"I waited a long time, and I was maybe going to do it myself, do it with an iPhone and a couple of meatball sandwiches, 'cause I wanted to protect it," recalled Vallelonga. But then director Peter Farrelly (*Fever Pitch*, *Stuck on You*) got a hold of the story and Vallelonga realized, "I've gotta let this go."

Green Book hits theatres November 21st.
—MW

On Home Turf: Larry

Gillian Jacobs

Gillian Jacobs (TV's *Community*, *Love*) should be in Toronto through the middle of this month shooting the horror film *Larry* from writer-director **Jacob Chase**.

The film is based on Chase's five-minute short of the same name, which you can watch online. The short features just two characters — Joe, a parking lot attendant, and the terrifying, skeletal creature Larry who pops out of a tablet computer.

But much has changed to accommodate Jacobs and her young co-star **Azhy Robertson** (*Juliet, Naked*). The film will now revolve around a monster that materializes via electronic devices and terrorizes a little boy (Robertson). —MW

THE ART OF FILM

London, Ontario, artist Daniel Turres has studied both fine art and film, specializing in illustration and storyboard drawing. So it makes sense that his work bridges the two. Turres draws his portraits in Adobe Illustrator and then cuts out the figures and overlays them with recycled materials. "The idea is drawing the film or television version of the character with the original material in the background as an homage," he explains. Here, clockwise from left, you see his renditions of *Star Wars*' R2-D2 and C-3PO, *It's* Pennywise and *American Psycho*'s Patrick Bateman. See more at [instagram.com/pop_fiction_art](https://www.instagram.com/pop_fiction_art). —MW





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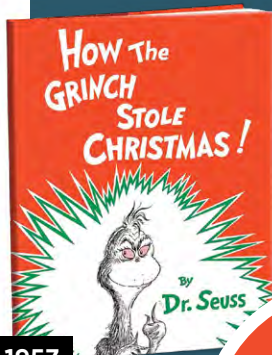


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OH, The Places You'll Go!

Behold the Grinch's evolution across six decades, from the pencil of Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, to the cover of Geisel's 1957 book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* to 1966's traditionally animated TV special to Jim Carrey's 2000 live-action recreation and finally this month's digitally animated *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch*, which hits theatres November 9th with Benedict Cumberbatch voicing the Christmas-hating curmudgeon of Whoville.



1957



1966



2000



2018



DID YOU KNOW?

Eve Hewson, seen here playing Maid Marian to Taron Egerton's titular star of *Robin Hood* is the daughter of Bono, U2's lead singer. Bono's birth name is Paul Hewson.



OFF TO CAMP

Before cameras rolled on *Overlord*, a genre mash-up in which American soldiers take on Nazi zombies during World War II, director Julius Avery (*Son of a Gun*) made his actors undergo boot camp, albeit without the zombies. Under the experienced eye of Senior Military Advisor Freddie Joe Farnsworth, Wyatt Russell, Jovan Adepo and the rest of the pretend soldiers learned how to look, and feel, just a little bit like the real thing. "The main thing for me with the boot camps is a team-bonding experience," said Avery. "They get to moan and groan together...they're all feeling the same experience, they're all feeling the same aches and pains, and then they get to sit together around a campfire at night and kind of do some more moaning and groaning."

Overlord hits theatres November 9th.



CAR PHOTO COURTESY JULIENS AUCTIONS.
PHOTO FROM 1956 BY PAUL SCHUTZER/GETTY



Lights, Camera, AUCTION!

You have until November 17th to bid on this 1956 raven black Ford Thunderbird that was owned by Marilyn Monroe from 1955 to 1962, the period during which she was married to playwright Arthur Miller, seen here driving the sweet little ride with his wife in 1956.

Eventually Monroe gifted the car to John Strasberg, the son of her beloved acting coach Lee Strasberg, on his 18th birthday.

Go to juliensauctions.com to make your bid, but you should know the estimate is \$300,000 to \$500,000 (U.S.). Good luck!



Children's CHILD

Michael B. Jordan is one of the best dramatic actors of his generation. He broke our hearts in *Fruitvale Station*, his villain Erik Killmonger was *Black Panther's* most interesting character, and he was a huge part of *Creed's* unlikely revival of the tired *Rocky* franchise.

But did you know that Jordan got his start on TV, including the ABC soap opera *All My Children*? Here he is at about 15 years old as AMC's Reggie Porter, a role he played from 2003 to 2006.

Jordan reprises his role of Adonis Creed (top right) for this month's *Creed II*, which hits theatres November 21st. —MW

Quote Unquote

I think Lisbeth represents something different to every single person who reads about her or watches her. For me, I think she's someone who doesn't operate in the way that we all believe that we should do. **She has no respect for authority because she's been failed at every single point in her life by people who were supposed to have taken care of her.**

THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB
STAR **CLAIRE FOY** ON
PLAYING LISBETH SALANDER



TIGER
HITS THEATRES
NOVEMBER 2ND

Knockout ROLE

Prem Singh decided it was time to control his own destiny.

“As an actor, being South Asian and growing up in Toronto, roles are very limited,” says Singh on the line from his Toronto home. “And the roles that do come your way are very stereotypical. That’s the challenge you face, and I thought the next possible step was to do what Sylvester Stallone did or what Ben Affleck and Matt Damon did, which was write your own material.”

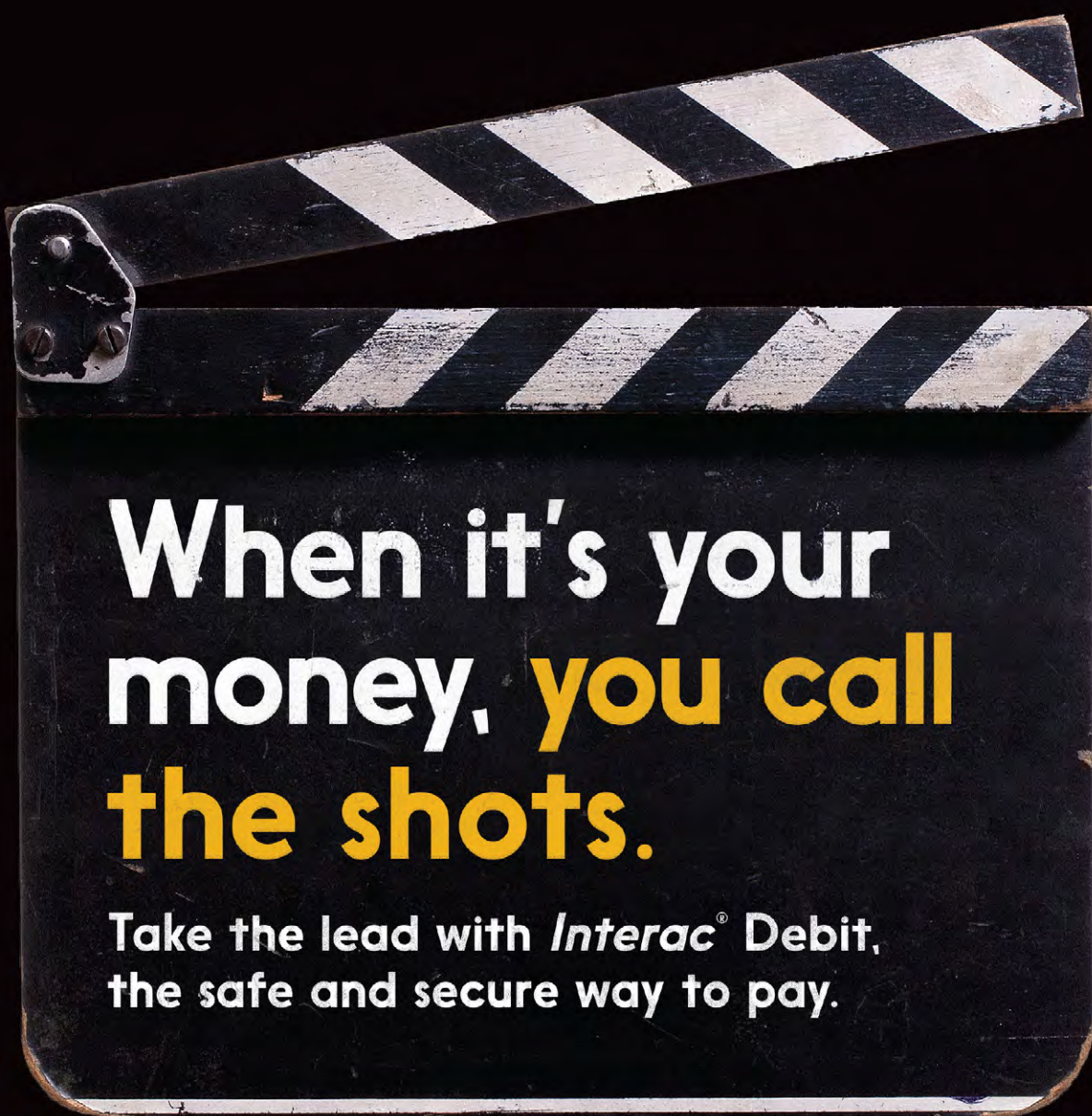
So Singh wrote *Tiger*, based on the real-life story of Canadian Sikh boxer Pardeep Nagra, who was banned from competition in 1999 because he would not shave his beard, an article of his Sikh faith. Nagra took his case to court and eventually won.

Singh (who is also Sikh) sat down and wrote the script with friend Michael Pugliese, and cast himself as Nagra. The pair brought on Australian director Alister Grierson (*Sanctum*) to helm the pic. To help the film’s commercial appeal Singh adapted Nagra’s story somewhat and set it in the U.S. He also needed a big name actor to play Nagra’s coach, Frank Donovan. Enter Mickey Rourke.

“We went to the Wild Card boxing gym in L.A.,” says Singh, “and Michael went up to the owner, Freddie Roach, and said, ‘We’re trying to get this movie made and we’re looking at a role for Mickey Rourke.’ And Freddie’s like, ‘Oh yeah, Mickey trains here all the time, he’s coming here at six o’clock.’”

“We spent, like, five hours in that gym just waiting for Mickey, and I’ll tell you that was the longest training session ever,” he says with a laugh. “And we met him and spoke to him for like 45 minutes and he was just about the story, and he was just about the characters, and he fell in love with it. The rest is history.

“And just for the record,” Singh adds, “I do not promote stalking.” —INGRID RANDOJA



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ALL DRESSED UP

**EMMA
STONE**

In New York for the premiere of Netflix's *Maniac*.

PHOTO BY TAYLOR HILL/GETTY

**NICHOLAS
HOULT**

At the Venice Film Festival's premiere of *The Favourite*.

PHOTO BY DANIELE VENTURELLI/GETTY

**BLAKE
LIVELY**

At the Christian Dior show during Paris Fashion Week.

PHOTO BY STEPHANE CARDINALE/GETTY



ELLE FANNING

At the Hollywood Foreign Press and InStyle TIFF Celebration in Toronto.

PHOTO BY MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY



DONALD GLOVER

At Fox TV's Emmy Party in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY FREDERIC J. BROWN/GETTY



LADY GAGA

In Los Angeles for the premiere of *A Star is Born*.

PHOTO BY NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY

NOVEMBER 2

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

E.T.A. Hoffman's 1816 story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* serves as the basis for this visually sumptuous tale starring **Mackenzie Foy** as Clara, who visits four magical realms on Christmas Eve and is tasked with stopping the evil Mother Ginger's (**Helen Mirren**) attack on the kingdoms. Look for **Keira Knightley** as the Sugar Plum Fairy and American Ballet Theatre dancer **Misty Copeland** as The Ballerina. See *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* feature, [page 26](#).



SUSPIRIA

Director **Luca Guadagnino** (*Call Me By Your Name*) helms this remake of the 1977 horror film that finds American dancer Susie Bannion (**Dakota Johnson**) travelling to Berlin where she lands a spot at the prestigious Markos Dance Academy led by Madame Blanc (**Tilda Swinton**). One of the dancers has gone missing and Susie begins to suspect Madame Blanc may have something to do with her disappearance.

TIGER

The story of real-life Canadian Sikh boxer Pardeep Nagra — who was banned from competition in 1999 because he would not shave his beard and went to court to fight the restriction — comes to the big screen with **Prem Singh** portraying Nagra and **Mickey Rourke** playing his boxing coach. See **Prem Singh** interview, [page 12](#).

NOBODY'S FOOL

Writer-director **Tyler Perry** takes a break from his popular Madea series to helm this comedy starring **Tiffany Haddish** as boisterous ex-con Tanya, who discovers her sister Danica (**Tika Sumpter**) is being catfished by a man pretending to be the perfect boyfriend. **Whoopi Goldberg** pops up as the sisters' mom.

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

It was an arduous production — director **Bryan Singer** was relieved of his duties after shooting two-thirds of the movie and replaced with **Dexter Fletcher** — but the turmoil doesn't seem to have affected the final product as **Rami Malek** sinks deep into his performance as Queen's frontman Freddie Mercury, whose musical talent, ambition and divided personal life (he was gay but devoted to a woman named Mary Austin) drove the band to dizzying heights. See **Rami Malek** interview, [page 22](#).



Rami Malek (left) and Gwilym Lee in *Bohemian Rhapsody*



Boy Erased's Joel Edgerton

BOY ERASED

Joel Edgerton stars in, wrote and directs this adaptation of **Garrard Conley's** memoir about growing up gay and being forced by his Southern Baptist parents to enroll in religion-based, gay conversion therapy. **Lucas Hedges** plays the young Conley figure, renamed Jared Eamons for the film, **Russell Crowe** and **Nicole Kidman** portray his concerned parents, and Edgerton takes the role of the determined therapy leader.

NOVEMBER 9

OVERLORD

During World War II, a group of American soldiers, including **Wyatt Russell**, **Jovan Adepo** and **John Magaro**, parachute into Nazi-occupied France where they come across a German lab that turns dead soldiers into zombie fighters.

THE FRONT RUNNER

Canadian director **Jason Reitman** (*Juno*, *Up in the Air*) takes a balanced approach in relaying the true story of politician Gary Hart (**Hugh Jackman**), whose 1988 presidential campaign is derailed when the press decides to report news of an alleged extramarital affair. My how times have changed. Co-starring **Vera Farmiga**, **J.K. Simmons** and **Alfred Molina**. See **Jason Reitman interview**, **page 28**.

THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB

The dormant *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* franchise is revived with the seemingly unlikely choice of *The Crown*'s **Claire Foy** playing antisocial, bisexual computer hacker Lisbeth Salander, who uses her skills to mostly punish men who wrong women. Here, her past comes back to haunt her as she discovers her equally brilliant twin sister Camilla (**Sylvia Hoeks**) is involved with a criminal organization dubbed the Spider Society.

DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH

Benedict Cumberbatch puts his velvety pipes to use voicing the curmudgeonly Grinch in the first animated feature film version of the Dr. Seuss story. Aided by his trusty dog Max, the Grinch sets out to ruin Christmas for the cheery residents of Whoville.

CONTINUED ►



Claire Foy as Lisbeth Salander in *The Girl in the Spider's Web*



Dr. Seuss' The Grinch



A villainous Johnny Depp in *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*

FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

This sequel to *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* sees Newt Scamander (**Eddie Redmyane**) reuniting with his mentor, Professor Dumbledore (**Jude Law**), who asks Newt to find escaped dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (**Johnny Depp**). Returning for the fast-paced adventure are Tina Goldstein (**Katherine Waterston**), her sister Queenie (**Alison Sudol**) and her boyfriend, the No-Maj baker, Jacob Kowalski (**Dan Fogler**). See **Eddie Redmayne** interview, **page 38**.

WIDOWS

British helmer **Steve McQueen**'s résumé is populated by films about men in turmoil — *Hunger*, *Shame* and *12 Years a Slave* — so it's nice to see him bring his considerable talents to this drama/thriller about four women — **Viola Davis**, **Elizabeth Debicki**, **Michelle Rodriguez** and **Cynthia Erivo** — forced to carry out the heist their dead husbands were planning.

INSTANT FAMILY

Married couple Pete (**Mark Wahlberg**) and Ellie (**Rose Byrne**) decide to become foster parents to a teenager named Lizzy (**Isabela Moner**), and when they learn Lizzy has two younger siblings (**Gustavo Quiroz**, **Julianna Gamiz**) they become newbie parents to all three kids.

CONTINUED ▶



Instant Family's Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne



Viola Davis (left) and Cynthia Erivo in *Widows*



NOVEMBER 21

GREEN BOOK

The winner of the People's Choice Award at this year's Toronto International Film Festival recounts the real-life story of African-American pianist Don Shirley (**Mahershala Ali**), whose 1960s concert tour takes him to the Deep South. He hires rough-around-the-edges bouncer Tony Lip (**Viggo Mortensen**) to act as his driver using the *Green Book*, a guidebook to help Black Americans navigate through the racist south.

CREED II

Michael B. Jordan steps back into the boxing ring to play pugilist Adonis Creed, the son of the late Apollo Creed. Trained by Rocky Balboa (**Sylvester Stallone**), Adonis is in for the fight of his life as he takes on Viktor Drago (**Florian Munteanu**), the son of Ivan Drago (**Dolph Lundgren**), the boxer who killed his father in a match more than 30 years ago.

ROBIN HOOD

The tale of Robin Hood continues to inspire filmmakers and this latest take on the saga casts **Taron Egerton** as the dogooding Robin, who fights the corrupt Sheriff of Nottingham (**Ben Mendelsohn**) with his band of merry men, including Little John (**Jamie Foxx**), Will Scarlett (**Jamie Dornan**) and Friar Tuck (**Tim Minchin**). **Eve Hewson** portrays Robin's love interest, Maid Marian.

Creed II's Michael B. Jordan

Taron Egerton (left) and Jamie Foxx in Robin Hood



Ralph Breaks the Internet

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

John C. Reilly returns to voice lovable video arcade character Ralph, who travels with pal Vanellope (Sarah Silverman) into the internet to find a replacement steering wheel for Vanellope's broken arcade game. There they meet a dizzying assortment of pixelated characters,

including Shank (Gal Gadot), a cutthroat race car driver, Yesss (Taraji P. Henson), an algorithm that keeps the internet's popular videos trending, and a gaggle of Disney movie princesses and other well-known Disney alumni. See **Ralph Breaks the Internet** feature, **page 36**.

NOVEMBER 23

THE FAVOURITE

Provocative Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Lobster*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*) brings his absurdist touch to this 18th-century dramedy that finds the close relationship between insecure Queen Anne (Olivia Colman) and her companion Sarah Churchill (Rachel Weisz) threatened when Sarah's scheming cousin, Abigail Masham (Emma Stone), arrives at court. See **Emma Stone** feature, **page 32**.



The Favourite's Olivia Colman

CINEPLEX EVENTS

MET OPERA

Aida (Verdi)

ENCORES: SAT., NOV. 3;
MON., NOV. 5; WED., NOV. 7;
SUN., NOV. 11

Marnie (Muhly)

LIVE: SAT., NOV. 10

**Samson et Dalila
(Saint-Saëns)**

ENCORES: SAT., NOV. 17;
MON., NOV. 19; WED.,
NOV. 21; SUN., NOV. 25

FAMILY FAVOURITES

Puppy Star Christmas

SAT., NOV. 3

Teen Titans

SAT., NOV. 10

Home Alone

SAT., NOV. 17

Pokémon the Movie:

The Power of Us

SAT., NOV. 24

ANIME

Dragon Ball Z Saiyan

(DOUBLE FEATURE)

SAT., NOV. 3

CLASSIC FILMS

**Planes, Trains
and Automobiles**

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Fantastic Beasts:

The Crimes of

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HE WILL HE WILL ROCK YOU

Shy, unassuming **Rami Malek** doesn't initially invite comparisons to Queen's legendary frontman, the late Freddie Mercury, but look a little closer and you may be surprised. Here the Emmy-winning actor talks about his obsession with the remarkable vocalist that developed while he was prepping for ***Bohemian Rhapsody***, and how it's only intensified since the project wrapped ■ BY CHRISTIAN AUST

It seems like an impossible task, playing Freddie Mercury, but Rami Malek accepted knowing the result would be either victory or defeat. And nothing in between.

We caught up with the 37-year-old star of this month's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, about Mercury and his rock band Queen, at London's Soho Hotel. In a sharp-looking suit, and with a stylishly short haircut, Malek — who owns an Emmy thanks to his performance on TV's *Mr. Robot* — seems like a bit of an introvert, moulding his answers slowly and intensely in that deep voice of his. Nothing about the man who was born and bred in L.A. reminds you of the legendary, flamboyant frontman for Queen, one of Britain's most popular, revolutionary and important music groups.

That's when you realize how good an actor he is. Because when you see Malek on screen as Mercury, you feel he is nothing but the right choice for this part.

What did it take to become Freddie Mercury? My impression is that you're nothing like him.

I guess so. Well, one, I don't think that I ever became him. That's where I thought I would set myself up for disappointment if I ever said, "I'm going to be Freddie Mercury." That would end up in some mimicry of him. I thought the only way to do this properly is to capture the essence of the man. You know, it can be very daunting looking at one of the most beloved

musicians of all time, an icon for the ages on stage, watching full-length concerts of what he could do, how he could captivate and hold an audience. It can leave you with a feeling of impending doom. So I had to circumnavigate that somehow.

And how did you manage to do that?

I said, "What can you do to investigate a human being?" And just go about it the same way you would when playing a fictitious character.

What did you find out about his essence?

I don't want to use the word, but he is quite mercurial. There is no single version of him. It's an amalgamation of many different characteristics. He's quite a complicated guy. He can be very shy, timid and emotional. And then he can be brash and volatile and the kindest, sweetest human being. He was a complete perfectionist and a competitor. And he can also hold you in the palm of his hand as an audience member and elevate you to



Rami Malek (left) on stage with Gwilym Lee in *Bohemian Rhapsody*



the same iconic status that you feel for him in one song.

The physical part, his body language, seems to be very important. How did you prepare for that?

That's true. I watched as much material of him as possible. And I think if there is something on Freddie Mercury that I haven't seen, I'll be astonished. Though I'm still looking. I'm as or maybe even more fascinated with him

now than I ever have been. I mean, the film is over and I'm still looking for footage. I'm as captivated by it as any audience member is.

So playing him made you a fan?

I always was a fan, but not to the degree I am now. I went from fan to fanatic, I think.

How did that happen?

Because I got so connected to his humanity, his identity and his crisis as a human being,

trying to discover who he was and come to terms with so many aspects of his life. He was bullied as a child, being called "Bucky" for those teeth. That was his name in school. Aside from that having a very tumultuous upbringing, living in Zanzibar, going to Bombay for school, coming home to a revolution and having to go to London, discovering that he could sing and play the piano. And then to be able to share that in an environment that was so wild, to say the least. **CONTINUED ►**

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 2ND

How did you let go after playing him?

This was a very difficult one to walk away from. And, as I said, I'm still searching for him in a way.

How did you become yourself again?

Well, if you look at it, it's a new self, right? Because he changed me. I'm a different person because of him. And I appreciate that.

In what way?

He's had the effect on me that I think he has on many people. I think there is a sense of courage, bravery and absolute determination that I find incredibly inspiring. And I hope if I can walk away with anything, it's to be infected with some of that.

What was it like to meet the rest of the band for the first time?

I was never going to show up and think they were going to be immediately accepting. I mean, it's a very close, dear friend of theirs, that they cherish and never want to tarnish the image of him in any way. And I don't mean to portray him in a negative light, just for anyone not to get it right. I understand the protection of their mate. So I went in apprehensive of course, but open. And they hadn't seen any footage of mine yet, which I did not know. So I met them feeling a bit comfortable, because

I was at least pleased of what we had done in the recording studio, where we videotaped a kind of audition tape for them. But it wasn't downloaded. About halfway through our conversation I realized that that ball was dropped. That sent me into a little bit of a panic.

But Brian [May, lead guitarist] was very encouraging and became a real friend I hope to stay in contact with for the rest of my life. I don't know if I could have done it without him and Roger [Taylor, drums].

What is your favourite Queen song after playing Freddie?

"You Take My Breath Away." It is an astonishing piece of poetry. And when you sing it, and it doesn't hit you, man, you don't have a heartbeat. 📌

Christian Aust is a freelance entertainment writer based in Hamburg, Germany.



Rami Malek as Freddie Mercury on stage at Live Aid
INSET: The real Freddie Mercury at Live Aid

► He calls it an upheaval living upbringing. You start to really appreciate him and his humanity. So I felt this connection that you get while trying to interpret a human being. I guess I developed some affection for him. It's like trying to find a long lost friend somehow.

At what point did you think, "I know what he's feeling"?

Who doesn't try to understand the complexities of their makeup? Why we do the things we do and who we are. And I think everyone in life has asked themselves, questioned his sexuality at one point. And he just dives right into

these questions, and I can relate to that. Give me a job about a human being I find interesting and I'll go all in. I guess that's where I could find some of the gravitas, flamboyance and larger than life quality that he emits. It reminds me of my personal ability to go for the things that I want in life. Acting has been one of them. I may come off as a shy and introverted person if you don't know me. But as an actor I can show it all and, in a way, at the same time show nothing [laughs]. But there has to be some of me in everything I do, I think.

Scheme big.



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THE *Nutcracker* GUEST LIST

Disney's *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is loosely based on German author E.T.A. Hoffman's 1816 story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* and the popular ballet it inspired, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, in which a girl visits a magical kingdom on Christmas Eve. Here we meet the film's various characters brought to life for the big screen

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Clara

Mackenzie Foy

Teenaged Clara is grieving after the death of her mother, a brilliant inventor. Clara is herself a clever tinkerer, and on Christmas Eve her godfather Drosselmeyer gifts her a golden thread that leads her to a magical world, the home to four distinct lands.

Sugar Plum Fairy

Keira Knightley

The Sugar Plum Fairy is the regent of the Land of Sweets. Kind and sweet, the Sugar Plum Fairy informs Clara that it was her mother who created the Realms and in fact was their Queen, making Clara a princess.

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 2ND

Captain Phillip Hoffman

Jayden Fowora-Knight

A valiant and loyal soldier, Hoffman guards the border between our world and his magical kingdom. He escorts Clara throughout the Realms and joins her on her dangerous mission to the Fourth Realm.

Mother Ginger

Helen Mirren

Evil Mother Ginger once ruled the Land of Amusements but was banished, and her land became the Fourth Realm, a dark fairground full of frightening toys. Clara travels there to get a magical key that once belonged to her mother, and that Mother Ginger needs to take over the kingdom.

Ballerina Princess

Misty Copeland

While in the Land of Sweets Clara is the guest of honour for a special pageant performed by the Realm's Ballerina Princess, whose exquisite dancing recounts the story of the Four Realms.

AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

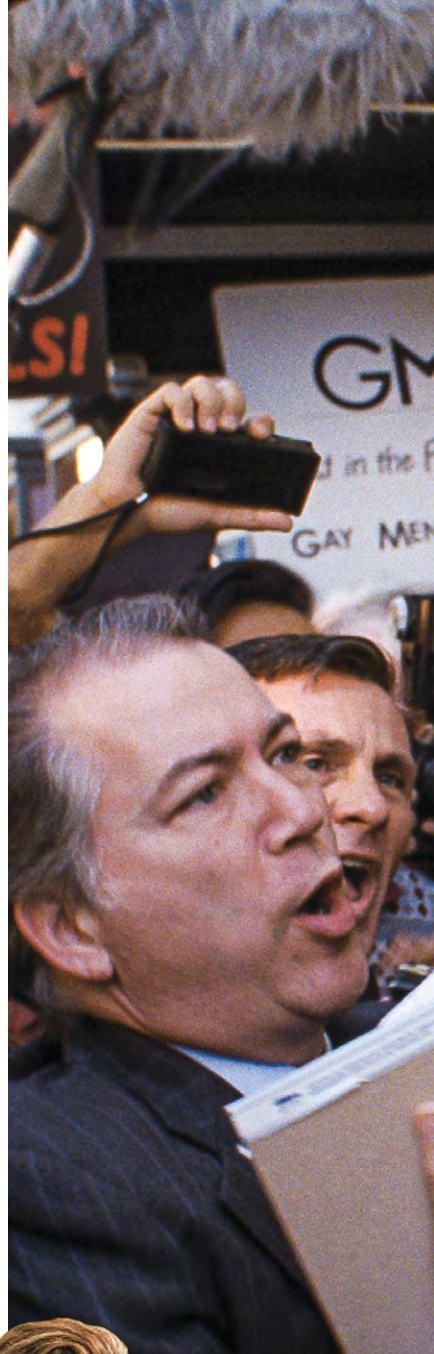
The sex scandal that brought U.S. presidential candidate Gary Hart down in the 1980s may seem quaint by today's standards, but it was a turning point for both politicians and the media. **Jason Reitman**, director of *The Front Runner*, tells us why this story that unfolded while he was a kid drew him in, and why this may be his star Hugh Jackman's most nuanced performance to date ■ BY TIFFANY LING

Celebrated director, and Canadian darling, Jason Reitman breezes into our interview suite at the Toronto International Film Festival with a quiet confidence. The Montreal-born filmmaker is no stranger to the fest, having been here with *Thank You For Smoking*, *Juno*, *Up in the Air*, *Labor Day* and *Men, Women & Children*.

This time he finds his inspiration in the story of real-life presidential candidate Gary Hart for *The Front Runner*, which documents Hart's swift downfall in the late 1980s due to reported infidelity.

While a cheating scandal may seem pedestrian when compared to the misdeeds of today's politicians, it marked the beginning of change for a nation that wanted increasing accountability for their would-be presidents, and political journalists are at the forefront of this shifting landscape, asking themselves if exposing private indiscretions is newsworthy. With Hugh Jackman leading the cast in one of his most understated roles, Gary Hart is at once charming and enigmatic as he insists on preserving his privacy even as his career hangs in the balance.

Exploring the blurred line between the public and private lives of a politician, the film asks tough questions about the role of the media and its entry into tabloid journalism. But, mostly, it highlights a conversation that is as relevant as ever.



Jason Reitman on the set of *The Front Runner*



Hugh Jackman as *The Front Runner's* tarnished candidate, Gary Hart

What drew you to the rise and fall of Gary Hart?

You know, I was 10 years old when this happened, so I wasn't aware of it. And when I heard the story a few years ago as part of a Radio Live episode I just couldn't believe that there was a moment in our history when the presumed next President of the United States was in a dark alleyway in the middle of the night with three reporters and no one knew what to do because no one had ever been in that situation before.

Can you give me a picture of the political landscape in the '80s? How were things changing and how did it affect candidates like Gary Hart?

It's a great question with a long answer, but I think there was a presumed separation of church and state in the late '80s between the personal and private lives of candidates, and it was the birth of a moment where we really asked ourselves, what do we really want to know, and what do we need to know about

a candidate? A question that obviously we're asking ourselves even more today. We look at the current President of the United States and we have to realize that anyone we elect is a human being, is going to have flaws. The question is what kind of flaws do we want?

What's Gary Hart's position on public vs. private life?

Gary Hart clearly thinks that there should be a separation between public and

CONTINUED ►

THE FRONT RUNNER

HITS THEATRES
NOVEMBER 9TH



Reitman (right) works with Mamoudou Athie while shooting *The Front Runner*

► private lives. And in many ways Gary Hart was an ideal candidate. Very thoughtful, very smart, very worldly, could see the future. And his ideas about energy and the Middle East and education and computers were far beyond his time. And at the same moment he was a flawed human being who had made mistakes, and it was the first moment in which journalists went after those stories, and it became a question for all of us.... What was relevant? What was important? What do we need to chase down? What should we be reading?

Can you talk about how your movie explores journalistic integrity and how far a journalist could or should go for a story?

This is a question that every audience member is going to have a different answer to, and I certainly don't have the answer to. *The Front Runner* was a film that I went into with questions and I came out of it with more questions. For the audience, one person's experience can be completely different from the person sitting next to them. Some people think, well, I don't need to know what happens in a president's bedroom, other people are going to say, they're running for president, I need to know everything, there's nothing that should be hidden from me. I wanted to make a movie that offered an opportunity for that conversation.

I love the way that you tell the story so fluidly. At one second we're with the campaign team, and *Miami Herald* and *Washington Post*. Why did you want to interweave the stories like that?

This is a movie with a dozen different points of view. Even with the *Washington Post* alone you have veteran reporters and [new] reporters, young and old, male and female. Each one represents a different point of view. My gut is that each audience member is going to align themselves with someone different. So my goal as a filmmaker was to give you so many different characters that gave you all these different points into the enigma that was Gary Hart — a guy that was smart, had great ideas and at the same time did not want to let you in, as a person.

What did Hugh Jackman bring to the role?

This is such a unique role for Hugh Jackman. I mean, you've never really seen him like this.... Beyond being the hardest working actor in this business, [he has this] huge heart. You get it when you meet him, but you get it on screen, whether it's playing Logan or playing the Greatest Showman, his heart is so exposed. And this is a role where he plays a closed box with just points of light coming out, and you're watching all these characters around him try

to figure him out. I think it's the most complicated and nuanced performance Hugh Jackman's ever done.

You don't really paint him as a villain or a hero, and you don't really paint the media that way either. You let the audience decide. But if there was one message that you wanted them to leave with, what would that be?

I don't have messages. I get frustrated with movies that are constantly telling me a message. I get frustrated with films that are trying to tell me what to think. I love movies that encourage me to think, and I love stories that are like that. The heroes of my movies have been the head lobbyist for Big Tobacco, a pregnant teenage girl,

a guy who fires people for a living, a woman who's trying to end another couple's marriage. This is my Marvel Universe [laughs]. And I am constantly on the lookout for nuanced, complicated characters that make me think about my own life 'cause I think that they'll have a similar impact on the audience.

Your movies are so different. You just did this movie and *Tully* in one year. Is there one thing in your movies that you like to remain consistent regardless of genre or subject matter?

That's a great question. I like stories that surprise me. That's what I'm looking for when I turn on the television, that's what I'm looking for when I go to see a movie, that's what I look for even in casual conversation when someone tells me, 'Oh, I gotta tell you a great story.' I love to be surprised. And *The Front Runner* was a story that just, frankly, shocked me, that there was this kind of comedic thriller that played out in real life in 1987, and it happened all in a week and it seemed to kind of shift the ground with our relationship with journalism, our relationship with politics, gender politics. It kind of spoke about so many things that we're still dealing with today. ☐

Tiffany Ling is a producer for the Cineplex Pre-Show.

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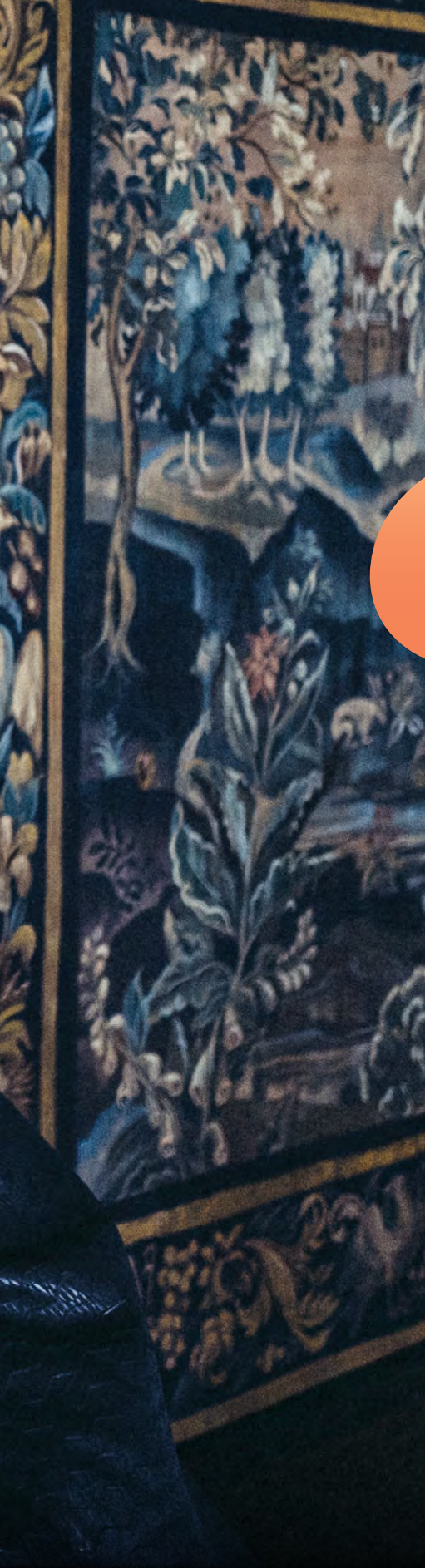


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DISORDER IN THE *Court*

She may look all calm and serene here, but **Emma Stone**'s lady-in-waiting brings anything but tranquility to the palace of Queen Anne in this month's critically acclaimed drama ***The Favourite***. Here Stone tells us why this royal story isn't quite what you're used to getting from a period piece ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

History tells us that the English royal court was often a hotbed of cutthroat scheming, elaborate manipulation and just plain bizarre behaviour. It was also, sometimes, a setting for twisted female empowerment and comedy as cold as a dagger in the back. When Emma Stone landed on the sumptuous Hertfordshire, England, set of *The Favourite*, she found herself immersed in all of that, along with something unique to period pieces. The strange mind of Yorgos Lanthimos.

"You know, Yorgos lends Queen Anne and the women surrounding her from that time period some unusual attitudes," says Stone over the phone while driving to the L.A. airport. Though the screenplay was written by Tony McNamara and Deborah Davis, Stone says, "the movie is through Yorgos Lanthimos' eyes, so of course it's an unconventional, really interesting look at the early 1700s."

Greek director Lanthimos has been stirring up the international film scene for a decade with such otherworldly explorations of power and perversity as *Dogtooth* (three children are confined to an isolated country estate), *The Lobster* (a society where those who can't find love are turned into animals and set free in the forest) and *The Killing of a Sacred Deer* (a teen insinuates himself into a doctor's family in increasingly menacing ways).

The world of Queen Anne, while an unusual setting for him, certainly lends itself to the auteur's absurdist obsessions, and the results delighted crowds at this year's Venice Film Festival where *The Favourite* won the Grand Jury Prize and one of its stars, Olivia Colman, won the festival's Best Actress award.

Colman (*The Lobster*, TV's *The Night Manager* and *Broadchurch*) plays Queen Anne as quite the mess.

CONTINUED ►

THE FAVOURITE
HITS THEATRES
NOVEMBER 23RD



Emma Stone gets down and dirty in *The Favourite*

► Haunted by maternal heartbreak (she had about a dozen pregnancies that ended in miscarriage or stillborn births and none of her children who did survive lived past childhood) and wracked with medical problems, she was also embroiled in an unpopular war with France.

She's an emotional basket case by the time the film takes place, and rather easily influenced by her conniving close confidante, Lady Sarah Churchill (Rachel Weisz, who co-starred with Colman in *The Lobster*).

Stone's character, Abigail Masham, is a poor cousin of Churchill's who arrives at Anne's household as a lowly servant. Deceptively innocent and pathetic on the outside, Abigail gradually displays a ruthlessness and cunning, learned from her own sordid history, that proves quite effective at capturing the hysterical queen's attention.

"I play a lady-in-waiting, a woman that comes to the palace and sort of gets closer and closer to the queen," Stone explains. "Rachel Weisz plays Anne's long-time best friend and comrade, who feels threatened by Abigail, and the competition goes from there."

But don't mistake *The Favourite* for a simple period take on mean-girl mistreatment, even if Stone does find her character covered in movie manure at one point.

"It's a really great, powerful female film, and making it was a really great experience," Stone insists. "These women are just trying to survive, and doing whatever they think they need to to get ahead."

With a reputation as one of the nicest stars in the industry, Stone had to stretch to play Abigail Masham. That's nothing new for the

Arizona-raised actor who turns 30 this month. She toughened up to battle the undead for 2009's *Zombieland* (and is reportedly attached to its soon-to-be-made sequel), tackled intense scenes, often in one long take, as the protagonist's confrontational daughter in 2014's Best Picture, *Birdman*, mastered singing and dancing for her own Oscar-winning turn in 2016's *La La Land* and learned to play tennis like the great Billie Jean King for last year's *Battle of the Sexes*.

Stone also plays another psychologically complex, not-so-nice girl in *Maniac*, the recently launched Netflix series about a pharmaceutical trial gone wildly off the rails.

"Cary Fukunaga directed all the episodes; he did the first season of *True Detective*," Stone says with typical enthusiasm. "And I worked with [co-star] Jonah Hill again, which was so wonderful. The first film I ever did was *Superbad*. Now, 11 years later, we're together again shooting this crazy thing. It's probably [quite dramatic], but while we were making it we called it a comedy."

There's certainly comedy in *The Favourite* too, degrading, vicious and bloody as it is. For Stone though, it seems leveraging her current position in the upper echelons of Hollywood royalty for cool new challenges is what it's all about.

"Yeah, I think so," she says.

"You get steeped in the world of learning something new, or find out all the things that make iconic characters tick, and it's really exciting and fun." □

Bob Strauss lives in L.A., where he writes about movies and filmmakers.



Olivia Colman as *The Favourite*'s Queen Anne in back, and *The Crown*'s Queen Elizabeth II in front

PAIR OF QUEENS

Emma Stone's co-star in *The Favourite*, Olivia Colman, will skip ahead more than two centuries in the history of the British monarchy to play another real-life queen when the third season of *The Crown* hits Netflix next year. Colman will take over the role of Queen Elizabeth II from Claire Foy as the series enters Elizabeth's middle years. —MW

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Going ONLINE

When it was released in 2012, the arcade-game movie *Wreck-It Ralph* had the most successful opening weekend ever for a Walt Disney Animation Studios film, so you just knew a sequel was on the way. And there was really only one place to take its leads, old-school game characters Ralph and Vanellope. Online. Here's what you need to know about ***Ralph Breaks the Internet*** ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

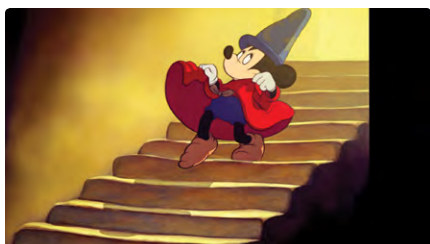
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Whereas 2012's *Wreck-It Ralph* took place in a retro arcade, the sequel sees videogame characters Ralph (John C. Reilly) and Vanellope (Sarah Silverman) enter the internet for the first time. After Ralph makes a modification to Vanellope's game *Sugar Rush* in an attempt to make it more exciting a gamer breaks the controller wheel in two. Without a new controller *Sugar Rush* will be unplugged and broken down for parts. Our heroes discover there's only one place to buy a replacement controller for *Sugar Rush*, a mysterious store called eBay inside the World Wide Web.



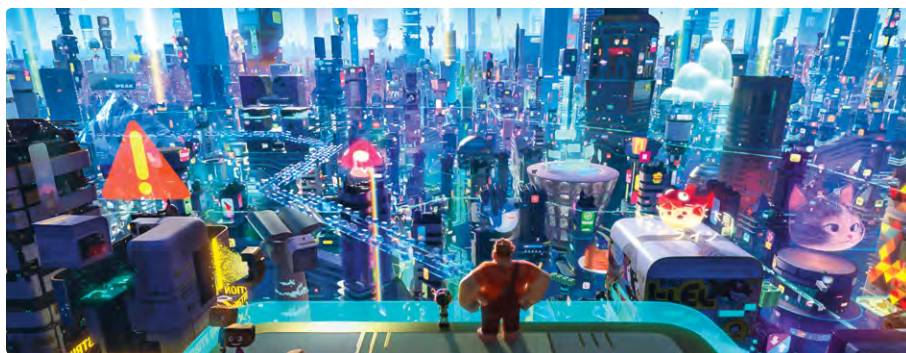
HE HATES TO BE ALONE

Usually, a voice actor working on an animated feature records his or her voice track alone and the tracks are woven together in editing. But John C. Reilly doesn't like to work that way. He prefers to record with his co-stars, so he and Sarah Silverman (pictured) recorded all of their voice tracks together.



HE'S NUMBER THREE!

Ralph Breaks the Internet is only the third theatrical sequel for a Walt Disney Animations Studios feature film, following 1990's *The Rescuers Down Under* (top) and 2000's *Fantasia/2000* (bottom). Of course, that doesn't include Pixar movies. Disney bought Pixar in 2006, but still operates its original, 1923-founded animation studio separately.



WEB BUILDING

The film's production designers decided to view the internet as an infinite, limitless city. As with the real internet, that city is a mix of old things that never entirely go away and new builds that are constantly popping up and appear closer to the top. The artists were inspired by big cities like Shanghai, Dubai and Manhattan, and each building represents a different website.

**RALPH BREAKS
THE INTERNET**
HITS THEATRES
NOVEMBER 21ST



KNOW IT ALL

Pay attention to new character KnowsMore and his annoying habit of finishing other characters' sentences. Voiced by Alan Tudyk (below), KnowsMore represents a search engine with an all-too aggressive auto-fill function. Though Tudyk has appeared in the flesh in many movies, including *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* and *A Knight's Tale*, you may be surprised to learn he's far more active as a voice actor, lending his pipes to films like *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *I, Robot* and *Moana*, such TV shows as *American Dad!* and *Robot Chicken* and videogames like *Injustice 2*.



PRINCESS PARTY

The scene where Vanellope takes refuge in a room full of Disney Princesses features the voice talents of 11 of the original actors who voiced those characters in their respective films — Kristen Bell (*Frozen*'s Anna), Idina Menzel (*Frozen*'s Elsa), Kelly Macdonald (*Brave*'s Merida), Mandy Moore (*Tangled*'s Rapunzel), Linda Larkin (*Aladdin*'s Jasmine), Paige O'Hara (*Beauty and the Beast*'s Belle), Jodi Benson (*The Little Mermaid*'s Ariel), Anika Noni Rose (*The Princess and the Frog*'s Tiana), Ming-Na Wen (*Mulan*'s Mulan), Auli'i Cravalho (*Moana*'s Moana) and Irene Bedard (Pocahontas in *Pocahontas*).

Sarah Silverman
(fifth from the left)
amid a court of
Disney Princesses
at Disney's D23
convention







Fantastic

He's the face, the heart and a big part of the magic behind the Harry Potter spinoff series ***Fantastic Beasts***. Here we talk to **Eddie Redmayne** about the continuing adventures of Newt Scamander and why the stakes are even higher for this month's thrilling sequel, ***The Crimes of Grindelwald*** ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Eddie Redmayne is a most accommodating actor.

After a long day of filming the 36-year-old star has settled in for a nighttime phone interview from his flat in London.

"I am sitting in the corner of the loo in my apartment to speak to you, which I'm afraid isn't very glamorous. How are you doing?"

For those not familiar with British slang, a "loo" is a washroom, and Redmayne is trying not to disturb his family, which includes wife Hannah Bagshawe and his two children, two-year-old daughter Iris, and eight-month-old son Luke.

Yet, even hunkered down in his privy, you can hear the excitement in his voice as he speaks about this month's highly anticipated *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*.

The sequel to 2016's Harry Potter spinoff *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* once again casts Redmayne as shy magizoologist Newt Scamander. In the first film, written by Potter book scribe J.K. Rowling and directed by David Yates, Newt travelled to 1920s New York City with his expanding suitcase full of magical creatures. It's there he teamed with No-Maj (non-magical) baker Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler) and upstanding witch Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston) to track down his missing creatures and apprehend powerful dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp), who is building a wizarding army to take over the world.

In the new film, again penned by Rowling and helmed by Yates, we discover Grindelwald has escaped to Paris, and Newt's former Hogwarts professor, Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law), tasks him with hunting down the dangerous wizard. Yet, he must also deal with some unresolved personal issues, such as the fact his former love Leta Lestrange (Zoë Kravitz), who betrayed his trust, is engaged to his older brother, Theseus (Callum Turner). Along for the ride are pals Jacob, Tina, Tina's sister, Queenie (Alison Sudol), and troubled young wizard Credence (Ezra Miller).

"The stakes in the wider wizarding world are ratcheting up in this film," says Redmayne, "and the question is whether it's okay for Newt to remain on the outside, or whether at some point he has to pick a side. When I first got the script it was quite an extraordinary read because it was so different from the first film. It retains some of the whimsy and humour and the charm, but there was this thriller element to it, the plot was so intricate and kind of mesmerizing. It was just a page-turner in a very different way than the first movie."

That first film earned critical praise, more than \$800-million (U.S.) worldwide and proved audiences wanted nothing more than to explore an expanded Potterverse full of new characters and creatures. And all that success wouldn't have been possible if they hadn't fallen in love with the character of Newt and, more specifically, Redmayne's sweet performance that is both childlike and valiant. It shouldn't be surprising, as Redmayne is an Oscar-winning actor, having

CONTINUED ►

**FANTASTIC BEASTS:
THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD**
HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 16TH



Jude Law (left) as the younger Dumbledore with Redmayne's Scamander
BELOW: A Niffler

HERE'S JOHNNY!

Many moviegoers did a double take when a peroxide-blond Johnny Depp appeared on screen in *Fantastic Beasts and*

Where to Find Them as the film's wizard villain Gellert Grindelwald. Depp loves to hide behind makeup and wigs, but that doesn't take away from the fact he gave a great performance as the creepy Grindelwald, and Redmayne says to expect more of the same from Depp in the sequel.

"One of the things about the J.K. Rowling world is that it has always depended on really hardcore villains," explains Redmayne. "I used to find Voldemort absolutely terrifying, and I thought Ralph Fiennes did such an extraordinary job in the films. It's similar with Grindelwald who's calling people to his cause, but he doesn't just use violence, he's actually charming and manipulative. And Johnny is such a formidable actor who has so many sorts of colours, all of which are at work here. I haven't seen the film yet, but the bits that I saw on set were really a kind of master class to watch." —IR



reading her own stories. You sit there and hear sporadic gobbledygook coming out and when you try to read to her she's like, 'No dad. I've read it. I know it.' And it's always much more interesting what she comes out with than what I've read." ☑

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

► earned a statue in 2015 for his transformative turn as Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*.

"One of the things that I love about Newt is that he is entirely his own person, he's not a people pleaser," notes the actor. "Magical creatures were hugely looked down on by magical society, and certainly the ministries, but that's never put him off his passion. And I think what you see in this film is that individualism is one of the things that always attracted him to Dumbledore, it's why they have a particularly special relationship. Dumbledore was always inspired by Newt's knowledge of his own mind."

Getting the chance to work with Jude Law — who portrays a youthful, vibrant, and dare we say dishy version of beloved professor Dumbledore — was a plus for Redmayne.

"The wonderful thing about having stuck it out a decade or so as an actor is that you meet people socially who become your pals and that's certainly the case with Jude," says Redmayne. "I've known him for many years socially and have such great admiration and respect for him, so that master/apprentice thing was already built into our roles. Also, he's just so playful, and brings this mischievous kind of twinkle to Dumbledore's eye. And David Yates, the director, encouraged us to play with that, and I hope going forward there'll be more stuff between Dumbledore and Newt."

Among the most charming elements in the *Fantastic Beasts* series are the beasts, whimsical

CGI creations that go from scary to comical to cute. The thieving Niffler stole the spotlight in the first movie, and this time around the filmmakers up the cute ante by including baby Nifflers.

"The baby ones were a flipping nightmare to work with," says Redmayne with a laugh. "Basically, I go and work with this movement director and puppeteers, and David Yates gives us an idea and sends us off for a couple of weeks to kind of workshop things. And so to replicate the little weight of the baby Niffler we use a hacky sack, so basically I'm walking around with lots of hacky sacks in my pockets."

"But yeah, I always enjoyed that relationship in the first film, the kind of love-hate thing between Newt and the Niffler, and also now having two little children myself — when I was making the film they both were under two — I can definitely relate to having to run around trying to do damage control."

Redmayne's freckled, youthful face makes it easy to forget that he's a husband and father who is now closer to age 40 than 30. The fact that he is a doting dad must make him excited for the time his kids can sit down and watch the *Fantastic Beasts* films.

"Quite a lot of people who saw I was doing *Fantastic Beasts* were like, you're choosing to do family movies because you've got kids. But they are quite intense family movies! Maybe it's a decade before Iris can watch."

"But so many of my friends talk about reading the Potter books to their kids, and I do look forward to that, and my daughter does love stories," he says excitedly.

"She can't speak a huge amount but she insists on



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NAUGHTY OR NOT

We're sure it's not true, but this doggy does look cute in the **Naughty Knit Dog Toque** (\$5, HomeSense).



HANNUKAH FUNNUKAH

Donuts are a traditional Hannukah treat because they're cooked in oil. But moderation is still important, and the **Brentwood Ts-250 Mini Donut Maker** (\$50, Walmart) needs just a touch of oil to make sure those delicious little donuts pop out perfectly.

COUNTING DOWN

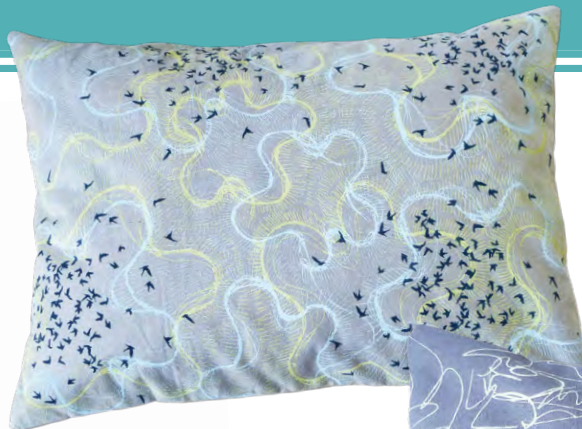
Oh what fun it is to open **Biotherm's Advent Calendar** (\$99, Shoppers Drug Mart). 24 daily skincare items ranging from cleanser to oil to serum to shaving gel.





GOING STAG

This **Hand-painted Stag Plate** (\$20, shop.ago.ca) makes us want to eat a whole plate of Christmas cookies just so we can see the handsome design underneath.



WHERE'S THE TREE?

Fill your home with the calming aroma of Balsam fir trees with one of Quebec-based **Balsamea's Pillows** stuffed with ground fir needles and foam (\$80 for 15"x11", \$48 for 11"x7", produitbalsamea.ca).



TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT

That's right, little guy. Wearing **Matching Family Onesie Pajamas** (\$36 to \$58 each, retrofestive.ca) is pretty exciting, especially when they're festooned with such a fun holiday pattern.



BRING HOME A GNOME

Choose from Indigo Design Studio's **Ceramic Gnome Bottle Stopper** (\$18 for a set of two, Indigo) or the **Figural Lid Mug Gnome** (\$18, Indigo).

LOVE THIS LODGE

It's part toy, part seasonal decor. It's the **Playmobil Ski Lodge** (\$90, toy stores). Comes with tons of accessories, including drinks, meals, bar, skis, gloves, snowman and figurines.



Hemsworth HEADS TO DHAKA

Chris Hemsworth is spending the next few months in India and Indonesia shooting the thriller *Dhaka*. *The Avengers* star plays a mercenary named Rake, who's hired to rescue the son of a prominent businessman (Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh). The film marks the directorial debut of **Sam Hargrave**, a stunt coordinator on films such as *Suicide Squad* and *Avengers: Infinity War*.



BANKS FINDS HER PRINCE

Queen For a Day casts

Elizabeth Banks as the real-life woman who won a date with pop legend Prince. In 1986 MTV held a "Win a Date With Prince" contest, and the winner (the 10,000th caller to the station) was Wyoming hotel cleaner Lisa Barber. Banks will play Barber, but don't expect to see Prince depicted, as his likeness will be kept off-screen with the action focusing on Barber and how the event changed her life.



Jagger CHOOSES Burnt Orange

Back in 1970 Rolling Stones frontman **Mick Jagger** starred in two films — *Ned Kelly* and *Performance* — and there was talk he would pursue dual careers of acting and music. But Jagger gave up on his film career and was content to star in music videos. However, the 75-year-old is presently in Italy shooting the art-heist thriller *The Burnt Orange Heresy* for director **Giuseppe Capotondi**. Jagger plays a wealthy art collector who entices an art critic (**Claes Bang**) and his lover (**Elizabeth Debicki**) to steal a painting straight from a famous artist's studio.

PHOTO BY HENNING KAISER/GETTY



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

Star Wars: Episode IX

It's amazing to think that the nine-part *Star Wars* saga envisioned by writer-director **George Lucas** back in 1977 will finally come to an end on December 20th, 2019, with the release of the final installment. Filming is underway with director **J.J. Abrams** behind the camera, and while the plot is being kept under wraps we do know we'll see most of the series regulars, including **Daisy Ridley**, **John Boyega**, **Oscar Isaac**, **Mark Hamill** — who is expected to play "Force Ghost Luke" — and the late **Carrie Fisher** whose performance will be cut together from unused footage from *The Last Jedi*. New additions for the finale include **Matt Smith** and **Richard E. Grant**.



CRAIG Carries Knives

Now that *Bond 25* is on hold due to the departure of director **Danny Boyle**, actor **Daniel Craig** has signed on to the murder mystery *Knives Out*. Written and helmed by **Rian Johnson** (*Star Wars: The Last Jedi*), the pic casts Craig as a detective in what Johnson calls a “locked-room mystery,” referring to a plot in which there are no clues as to how a killer could have entered or left a locked room.



FRESH FACE Sylvia Hoeks

You may recognize **Sylvia Hoeks** as Luv, **Jared Leto**’s frighteningly efficient Replicant assistant from *Blade Runner 2049*. This month she returns in a more prominent role portraying Lisbeth Salander’s (Claire Foy) scary sister Camilla in *The Girl in the Spider’s Web*. The 35-year-old former model is an award-winning Dutch actor who is rumoured to be director **Ridley Scott**’s top choice for the role of British spy Tara Chace in his upcoming adaptation of the graphic novel *Queen & Country*.



JOLIE IS A KEPT WOMAN

Angelina Jolie is filling up her acting schedule — she recently wrapped *Maleficent 2* and is presently shooting *Come Away*, a prequel that combines the *Peter Pan* and *Alice in Wonderland* stories — and now word is she will produce and star in *The Kept*, based on the 2014 novel by **James Scott**. The drama is set in 1897 rural New York State and finds midwife Elspeth Howard (Jolie) returning home to discover her husband and four of her children murdered. With the help of her remaining 12-year-old son, Caleb, Elspeth sets out to take revenge against the killers. No word on who will direct.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ **Patrick Stewart** will play Bosley in the *Charlie’s Angels* reboot. ▶ The sci-fi thriller *Synchronic* casts **Jamie Dornan** and **Anthony Mackie** as New Orleans paramedics who come across a bizarre designer drug. ▶ **Rebecca Ferguson** is in talks to play *Dune*’s female lead opposite **Timothée Chalamet**. ▶ *Uncut Gems* casts **Adam Sandler** as a jewellery store owner whose gambling addiction takes a toll on his life.

RETURN ENGAGEMENT



Sweet Candy

John Candy was waiting for the chance to show he was more than just a funny big man; he could act.

The SCTV star finally got that chance when director Ron Howard cast him as Tom Hanks' playboy brother in *Splash* (1984), but he *really* showed his talents in what is considered his career best performance, playing travelling salesman Del Griffith in writer-director John Hughes' classic comedy *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*.

The film finds the lovable but annoying Del travelling with uptight marketing executive Neal Page (Steve Martin), who is desperately trying to get home to Chicago in time for Thanksgiving. They find themselves stranded, broke and at odds with one another over three mishap-filled days. And while plenty of laughs come via the pair's mismatched chemistry — Martin's high-strung hysterics vs. Candy's clumsy charm — the film is also full of heart, and that comes courtesy of Candy, who gives a tender and vulnerable turn as the lonely Del.

Candy died six years after the release of *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* and the film remains a wonderful testament to one of Hollywood's most loved comedic actors.

—INGRID RANDOJA

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BLACKKKLANSMAN

RENT IT NOVEMBER 6

Director **Spike Lee**'s latest film may take place in the 1970s, but it could not be more relevant to today's world. Black cop Ron Stallworth (**John David Washington**) spearheads a case that sees his white partner (**Adam Driver**) pretend to be him to infiltrate a branch of the KKK (and please remain seated for the film's powerful ending).



DOG DAYS

BUY IT NOVEMBER 6

RENT IT NOVEMBER 20

Invite your canine pal up on the couch to enjoy this lighthearted comedy featuring various dogs and their owners who interconnect in modern-day Los Angeles. Starring **Eva Longoria**, **Vanessa Hudgens**, **Finn Wolfhard** and **Nina Dobrev**.



CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

BUY IT NOVEMBER 9

Winnie the Pooh and his friends make a delightful return to the screen in this heartfelt family film that sees a grown up Christopher Robin (**Ewan McGregor**) reconnect with his childhood pals.



ALPHA

RENT IT NOVEMBER 13

We travel 20,000 years into the past with young hunter Keda (**Kodi Smit-Phee**), who, after being hurt, is mistakenly left for dead by his tribe. Keda befriends an injured wolf, and together they make the long journey back to Keda's village.



THE NUN

BUY IT NOVEMBER 20

Set in 1952, this spinoff from *The Conjuring 2* finds a young novice (**Taissa Farmiga**) and a priest (**Demián Bichir**) travelling to a remote Romanian abbey where they encounter a terrifying demonic entity.

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FINALLY...



WIDOWS AND WINDOWS

Viola Davis is fantastic in *Widows*, director Steve McQueen's drama about a group of women who turn to crime when their thieving husbands all die in an attempted heist.

But her character's Chicago condo deserves some credit too. Production designer Adam Stockhausen (*Ready Player One*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*) explains, "That penthouse just had a great quality, these floor-to-ceiling windows let in this incredible light that could turn the place very, very warm or very, very cold. It could be expansive and embracing the whole city, or it could be a box that was just reflecting back.... That quality was something that was exciting to all of us, and we ended up turning the glass windows into mirrors at different times to reflect the life held within rather than seeing out on the city." —*MW*

WIDOWS
HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 16TH

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